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DATE 5/11/84

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Space Council Urges More Funds Be Given For Landsat Satellites

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter
WASHINGTON — The National Space Council, an interagency group headed by Vice President Dan Quayle, recommended that the U.S. continue providing funds for Landsat remote sensing satellites.

Earlier this year, funds for Landsat 4 and 5 ran out, but money was provided on a temporary basis after the vice president interceded. On Friday, administration and congressional sources said, the council voted unanimously to recommend to the president that \$5 million be provided for the two Landsat satellites for the rest of the current fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30, and \$19 million be provided for next fiscal year.

In addition, the council recommended that the administration add a further \$50 million to \$60 million in funds for a new satellite, Landsat 6, which is scheduled for launch in 1991. The Landsat satellites take pictures of Earth from space that are used in agriculture and mining.

Separately, the council set up a working group to devise a plan to find funds for the \$4 billion X-30, an ambitious project to build an aircraft that can take off from an ordinary airstrip and vault into space. The group is expected to make its recommendations to the council at the end of June.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney has recommended moving the X-30 from the Air Force to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which doesn't have enough money to complete the project. Administration and congressional officials have been fighting that proposal.